

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EA-11

FRB-02 IO-13 NEA-10 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08 L-03 H-03 RSR-01

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P R 140840Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6641

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2219

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EEC FI

SUBJ: PARLIAMENT TO BE SUMMONED EARLY

REF : HELSINKI 2181

BEGIN SUMMARY. PARLIAMENT TO CONVENE A WEEK EARLY TO ATTEMPT
TO DEAL WITH LEGISLATIVE PROBLEMS RELATED TO EVENTUAL SIGNING
OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMON MARKET. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED ON FRIDAY TO HAVE PARLIAMENT SUMMONED
ON SEPTEMBER 3 INSTEAD OF AWAITING ITS NORMAL OPENING ON SEPT-
EMBER 11. THE SPEAKER IS EXPECTED TO ISSUE THE CALL THIS WEEK.
THERE WAS SPECULATION LAST WEEK THAT PARLIAMENT WOULD BE CALLED
INTO SPECIAL SESSION IN MID-AUGUST TO DEAL WITH THE SPECIAL
ECONOMIC LEGISLATION ON WHICH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WANT ACTION
COMPLETED BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT SIGNS THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
WITH THE COMMON MARKET (EC). TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING ON-
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GOING REPAIR WORK ON THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING, HAVE PREVENTED

A SPECIAL SESSION NOW, WHICH FROM SEVERAL VIEWPOINTS WOULD HAVE BEEN UNDER PRESSURE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE PROBLEMS SURROUNDING THE PASSAGE OF THE LEGISLATION. OPENING PARLIAMENT A WEEK EARLY DOES NOT IMPOSE A TIME LIMIT ON THEIR DELIBERATIONS.

2. AS OF YET THERE ARE NO CONCRETE INDICATIONS OF HOW THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PLAN TO SURMOUNT THE OBSTACLES POSED BY THE COMMUNISTS, WHO HAVE THREATENED TO BLOCK THE LEGISLATION AS AN ACT OF DEFIANCE AGAINST THE EC AGREEMENT, AND THE CONSERVATIVES, WHO SIMILARLY WILL BLOCK THE LEGISLATION IF THE PRICE CONTROL ASPECTS ARE DESIGNED TO BE PERMANENT. A RECENT SPEECH BY A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT (JUSSI LINNAMO, FORMER MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE) MAY IMPLY ONE SDP APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM, NAMELY, TO CONVINCE THE EC OPPONENTS IN THE PARTY'S RANK AND FILE THAT THE EC AGREEMENT IS NOT REALLY IMPORTANT IN THE LONG-RUN, THE SIGNING IS A MERE FORMALITY, AND THAT THE SDP IS PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR EVEN MORE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC LEGISLATION IN THE FOREIGN TRADE AREA THAN THAT BOGGED DOWN NOW. THE THEORY IS THAT SUCH A PROMISE WOULD RELEASE THE PARTY LEADERSHIP FROM THE INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE PRESENT DRAFT ECONOMIC LAWS LAID DOWN BY THE SDP CONGRESS AND PROVIDE A JUSTIFICATION FOR SIGNING THE EC AGREEMENT. ALL THIS IS, HOWEVER, HIGHLY SPECULATIVE. THE SDP STRATEGY SHOULD EMERGE IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AS DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION AND GET UNDERWAY BETWEEN THE SDP AND THE COMMUNISTS AND CONSERVATIVES.

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